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IT'S UP TO THE LOGGER

by

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The logger, by modifying logging practices, might lessen the losses caused by the Douglas-fir beetle epidemic now underway in parts of southwest Oregon. What is done before April 1966 can be very important.

This is known.

1. The Douglas-fir beetles are now in the faded trees, down or damaged trees, and adjacent unfaded trees. The beetles will start emerging about April 1, 1965.

2. Douglas-fir beetles are attracted to down timber.

3. Most of the beetles that will attack timber during the spring of 1965 will remain in the timber until the spring of 1966.

4. Douglas-fir beetle broods in logs hauled to the mill will not be able to attack timber.

This is the action suggested.

1. Log as many of the "faded" groups and blown down timber plus the immediately adjacent green timber as possible before April 1965. This is the most important step. (Logging the adjacent green timber will pick up unfaded infested trees.)

2. Select special "trap" units spaced about 1 to 1-1/4 miles apart over as large an area as possible for special treatment. (Douglas-fir beetles are attracted to down timber up to 1/2 mile or more).

3. In these "trap" units, fall part of the timber during February and March 1965. (Timber felled just before beetle emergence is the most attractive.)

4. Let the felled timber lie until mid-June to collect the Douglas-fir beetles' attack. (This will tend to concentrate the broods.)

5. After mid-June, fall the remaining timber in the "trap" units and log as soon as practical. (By falling the remaining timber in June and then logging, the broods in the standing trees also will be removed.)

6. Burn the slash before April 1966 to destroy the broods in unmerchantable logs.

    The "trap" units absolutely must be logged before April 1966 to remove the broods before emergence and, if at all possible, before November 1965 in order to prevent attack by ambrosia or other beetles with resultant deterioration.

7. Remove rights-of-way logs promptly to avoid infesting timber along the road.

8. Log intermingled units on normal logging schedules--burn the slash.

This is how it's done.

1. "Trap" unit placement.
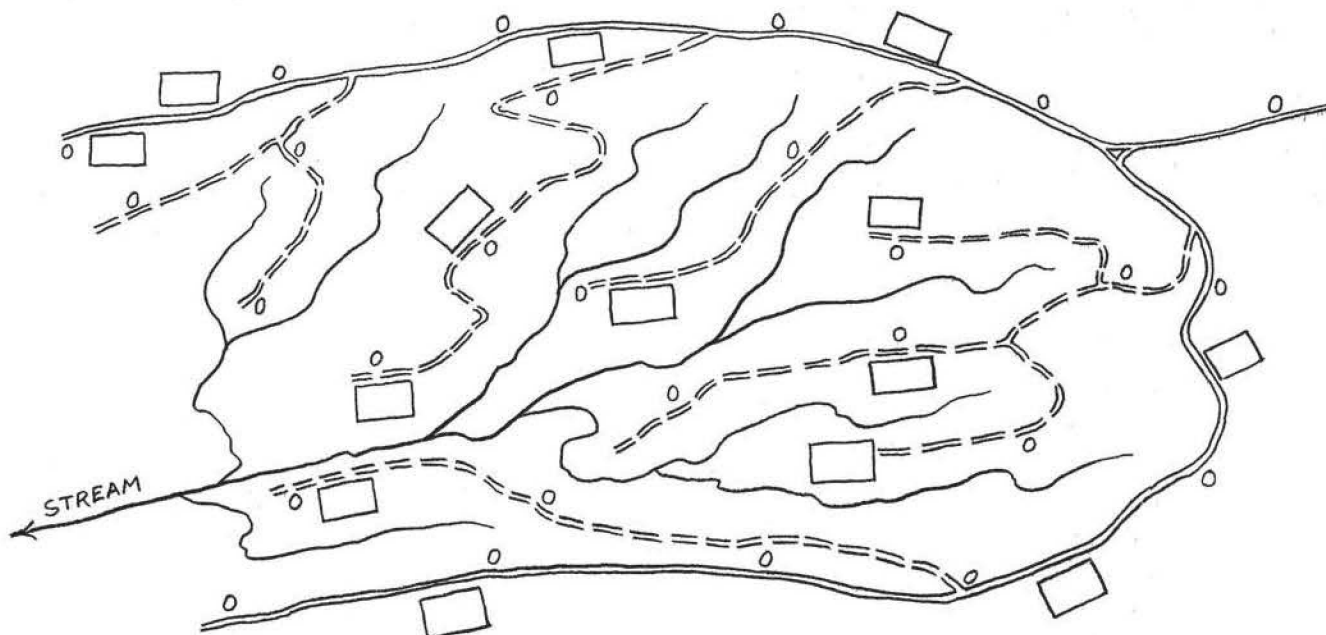
0 - "Trap" units 1-1/4 miles apart.   ☐   Regular units anywhere.

2. The timing of the "traps."

Fall "trap" trees

Feb. - March 1965

Most attacks occur
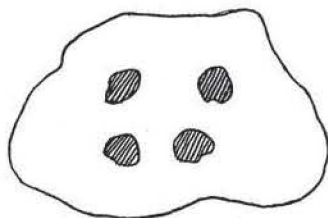
Apr. - May 1965

Down timber, collects beetles.

June - Nov. 1965

Fall rest of "trap" unit and log. Burn slash.

3. The falling pattern in the "trap" units can vary. Units can be of any size, even as small as 3 to 5 acres.
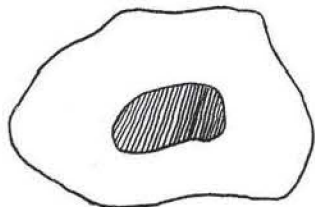
    a. First choice:

Fall scattered groups of 25-30 trees, keep well inside the unit boundary. Leave the rest of the timber standing to provide shade, hence better "traps" for the beetles.
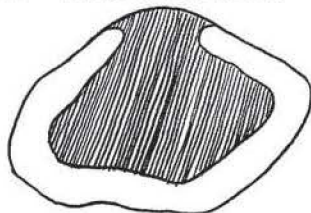
- Felled trees

    b. Second choice:

Fall a fairly large block in the center of the unit. Leave the rest standing.

    c. Third choice:

Fall all the timber except a strip 1-2 chains wide around the unit.

4. After June 1, fall the remaining timber in the unit and log, preferably before November, but absolutely before April 1966.

5. Burn the slash to destroy broods in the unmerchantable
   material.

To have any benefit, these procedures must be followed over large areas.
Complete drainages if possible. Close cooperation between the logger and
the forester is required. Where ownerships are intermingled, all must go
along if any benefits are to be obtained.

These suggestions are based on observations, limited research data, and
some experience in other areas. The success of "trap" units has not been
statistically demonstrated in West Coast Douglas-fir.

The practices are suggested only for use within two areas in the Coast
Range of southwest Oregon where group killing is underway--one area from
the Alsea River south to the Umpqua River drainages and the other,
essentially from the Rogue River drainage southward to Brookings, as shown
on the attached map.

GENERALIZED DOUGLAS-FIR BEETLE INFESTATIONS WESTERN OREGON 1964